Outcomes Assessment Plan/Report

University of South Florida
Outcomes Assessment Plan/Report
for Academic Programs

Assessment is the systematic collection, review, and use of information about educational programs undertaken for the purpose of improving student learning and development.

An outcomes assessment plan is completed by faculty members for each program, at each degree level, each academic year. Completed outcomes assessment plans are e-mailed to: Oaplan@acad.usf.edu

At the end of the assessment period, summary items are completed. Completed assessment reports are e-mailed to this address: OAReports@acad.usf.edu.

Information about outcomes assessment activities is located here: http://www.acad.usf.edu/programs/outcomesassessment.html

Information about this Plan/Report

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<th>College</th>
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<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Educational Measurement &amp; Research</td>
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<td>Degree Level</td>
<td>M.A., M.Ed.</td>
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<td>Assessment period</td>
<td>What are the beginning and ending dates of this assessment period? Beginning date: August 2002 Ending date: July 2003</td>
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<td>Prepared by</td>
<td>Who prepared this plan/report? Please list the faculty members involved.</td>
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<td>Lou Carey, Chair</td>
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<td>Robert Dedrick, John Ferron, Jeffrey Kromrey, Cynthia Parshall, Kristine Hogarty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date Plan Submitted</td>
<td>March 27, 2002</td>
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<td>Date Report Submitted</td>
<td>June 1, 2004</td>
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Mission/Goals:

**Mission:**
Enter all or part of the USF mission statement that relates to this academic program. The mission is located here: [http://usfweb.usf.edu/president/vis_val.html](http://usfweb.usf.edu/president/vis_val.html)

As an institution dedicated to excellent teaching, the University’s fundamental objective is to evoke in its students a lifelong commitment to learning that enables them to become thoughtful, active, productive and compassionate citizens. Advanced studies at the graduate and professional level enable students to work with faculty at the forefront of their disciplines, to increase their depth of knowledge and personal achievement and to contribute to the advancement of their professions and the larger society. The University has high expectations of ... its faculty and students as exemplary scholars.

**College Mission or Goal(s):**
Enter all or part of the College's mission statement and/or goals that relate to this academic program.

3.2.1 To graduate and support superior and visionary educators and human and support service professionals who can perform the professional roles required in changing educational environment.

3.2.4 To expand professional knowledge through interdisciplinary research related to teaching, learning, and teacher education, thereby providing useful information for the design and evaluation of educational systems and the preparation of personnel for those systems.
Student Learning Outcome #1
What will students know or be able to do or believe by the end of the assessment period? Be specific.

Students completing the Master’s program in Measurement and Evaluation will demonstrate knowledge of the specialized content in their field.

It is recommended that two means of assessment be prepared for each student learning outcome.

**Action items:** These items define assessment activities. The completed assessment plan is e-mailed to: oaplans@acad.usf.edu at the beginning of the assessment period.

**Means of Assessment:** Describe the procedures, strategies, or means that will be used to collect information on student learning.

All M.Ed. graduates will conduct a study addressing a real-world problem in education. The conduct of the study will include designing the inquiry, gathering data, analyzing data, and providing both written and oral reports of the study. Both written and oral performance will be assessed by the faculty in the Measurement and Research Department.

**Criteria for Success:** Describe the criteria for success related to this means of assessment.

To assess overall performance, as well as performance in specific content areas, the following rubric will be used:

<table>
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<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unacceptable</td>
<td>1</td>
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Ninety percent or more of the students will earn an overall performance rating of “good” from their faculty program committee. On no portion of the examination will these students (the 90%) earn a rating of “unacceptable.”

**Summary items:** These items are completed after assessment activities, at the end of the assessment period. Completed assessment reports are e-mailed to: oareports@acad.usf.edu

**Findings:** What findings resulted from assessment activities?

100% of students (N = 2) assessed during the period met the criterion. Anecdotally, both students reported that they valued this approach in lieu of traditional, written comprehensive examinations. Especially valuable were the real-world nature of the problems the students addressed and the opportunity to choose a problem of personal interest. Additionally, both students plan to submit their papers to research conferences.

**Use of Results:** What changes, if any, were made in response to the findings?

Because this is a new method of assessment, and because of the small sample (N = 2), we will continue to monitor this indicator of the outcome for another year.
**Action items:** These items define assessment activities. The completed assessment plan is e-mailed to: oaplans@acad.usf.edu at the beginning of the assessment period.

**Means of Assessment:** Describe the procedures, strategies, or means that will be used to collect information on student learning.

Within three months of completing the program, all M.Ed. graduates will be asked to rate a series of items concerning their level of preparedness in their specialized subject matter.

**Criteria for Success:** Describe the criteria for success related to this means of assessment.

Eighty percent or more of the M.Ed. students completing the program will assign a rating of 4 or above on a 5-point scale to a series of items concerning their level of preparedness in their specialized subject matter.

**Summary items:** These items are completed after assessment activities, at the end of the assessment period. Completed assessment reports are e-mailed to: oareports@acad.usf.edu

**Findings:** What findings resulted from assessment activities?

Based on the exit survey report, 100% of the respondents (N = 2) met the criterion for two items and 50% met the criterion for three items. The items for which the criterion was not met were:

- well prepared in area of specialization,
- well prepared to carry out professional responsibilities, and
- confident in ability to use appropriate technologies at work.

**Use of Results:** What changes, if any, were made in response to the findings?

Because of the small sample (N = 2), we will continue to monitor this indicator of the outcome for another year. In the interim, the Department will initiate the STAR reports (annual reports of each student’s scholarly activities) to collect process information from each master’s student during their coursework and field experiences.
Student Learning Outcome #2
What will students know or be able to do or believe by the end of the assessment period? Be specific.

Students completing the Master’s program in Measurement and Evaluation will critique a published research study in their field.

It is recommended that two means of assessment be prepared for each student learning outcome.

Action items: These items define assessment activities. The completed assessment plan is e-mailed to: oaplans@acad.usf.edu at the beginning of the assessment period.

Means of Assessment: Describe the procedures, strategies, or means that will be used to collect information on student learning.

Within the Foundations of Research course (EDF 6481), M.Ed. students given a published research study will identify potential strengths and weaknesses in the problem statement, the research design, the statistical analysis, and the interpretation of data, and offer appropriate suggestions for correction.

Criteria for Success: Describe the criteria for success related to this means of assessment.

Ninety percent or more of the M.Ed. students within EDF 6481, will earn an overall score of 4 or above (on a 5-point scale) on a series of items designed to assess students’ ability to identify potential strengths and weaknesses in a published research study, and their ability to offer appropriate corrections. For these students (the 90%), on no specific item will the assigned rating be less than 3.

Summary items: These items are completed after assessment activities, at the end of the assessment period. Completed assessment reports are e-mailed to: oareports@acad.usf.edu

Findings: What findings resulted from assessment activities?

Based on the EDF 6481 outcome report, 100% of the respondents (N = 1) met the criterion.

Use of Results: What changes, if any, were made in response to the findings?

Because of the small sample (N = 1), we will continue to monitor this indicator of the outcome for another year.
Student Learning Outcome #3
What will students know or be able to do or believe by the end of the assessment period? Be specific.

Students completing the Master’s program in Measurement & Evaluation will apply skills acquired in the program in the solution of problems pertinent to the field.

It is recommended that **two means** of assessment be prepared for each student learning outcome.

**Action items:** These items define assessment activities. The completed assessment plan is e-mailed to: oaplans@acad.usf.edu at the beginning of the assessment period.

**Means of Assessment:** Describe the procedures, strategies, or means that will be used to collect information on student learning.

All students completing the M.Ed. program will complete a practicum or field experience involving the application of program specific skills. Application of skills will involve one or more of the following: 1) identifying a problem or need, 2) designing or planning an appropriate procedure for solving the problem or alleviating the need, 3) implementing a plan or procedure pertinent to the problem or need. The students’ performance on their applications of knowledge and their dispositions will be judged by their site-based supervisors and university supervisors.

**Criteria for Success:** Describe the criteria for success related to this means of assessment.

Eighty percent or more of the students in field or internship experiences will receive an overall performance rating of 3 or above on a 4-point scale by their site-based supervisors and by their university supervisors. For these students (the 80%), on no specific dimension/item will the rating be less than 2.

**Summary items:** These items are completed after assessment activities, at the end of the assessment period. Completed assessment reports are e-mailed to: oareports@acad.usf.edu

**Findings:** What findings resulted from assessment activities?

Based on the ratings on the Practicum Performance Assessment, 100% of the students (N = 3) met the criterion.

**Use of Results:** What changes, if any, were made in response to the findings?

Because this is a new method of assessment and because of the small sample (N = 3), we will continue to monitor this indicator of the outcome for another year.